

U.S. Patent App'n. No. 10/743,960
Am't Dated November 8, 2004
Response to Office Action Mailed June 7, 2004

CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1 and 3-8 and cancel claims 9-18.

1. (Currently Amended) A cost-effective, manufacturable skid steer vehicle having a longitudinally extending axis, a left side, a right side, a front ~~[[end]]~~ and a rear ~~[[end]]~~, the vehicle comprising:

a chassis comprising a chain tank extending along the longitudinally extending axis, the chain tank including a left side and a right side;

~~an engine supported by the chassis;~~

~~a plurality of hydraulic pumps coupled to and driven by the engine, the plurality of pumps including a left side drive pump, a right side drive pump and a steering pump;~~

at least one ~~[[left side hydraulic drive]]~~ left-side motor, the left-side motor being fixed to the left side of the chain tank; ~~[[and]]~~

at least one ~~[[right side hydraulic drive]]~~ right-side motor, the right-side motor being fixed to the right side of the chain tank; ~~coupled to the left side and the right side hydraulic drive pumps, respectively; and~~

at least four vehicle suspensions, [[said]] the suspensions being disposed at the left front, the right front, the left rear and the right rear of the vehicle, wherein each suspension includes a control arm pivotally coupled to the chassis to pivot with respect to the chassis about a longitudinally extending axis, a spring for supporting the [[vehicle;]] vehicle, a strut coupled to the control arm, and a wheel coupled to the strut to be steered [[thereby,]];
and

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at least one steering actuator configured to simultaneously steer the front wheels to the left and the rear wheels to the right, and to simultaneously steer the front wheels to the right and the rear wheels to the left,

wherein the [[left side drive]] left-side motor is drivingly coupled via a left drive member to the two wheels of the left front and the left rear suspensions and [[wherein]] the [[right side drive]] right-side motor is drivingly coupled via a right drive member to the two wheels of the right front and the right rear suspensions such that the left drive member remains in the same orientation relative to the left-side motor and the right drive member remains in the same orientation relative to the right-side motor even as the control arms pivot with respect to the chassis.

2. (Original) The skid steer vehicle of claim 1, wherein the control arms pivot about horizontal axes.

3. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the control arm of each suspension is coupled to the chassis of the vehicle at two points, including a first point disposed forward of the strut of [[said]] each suspension and a second point disposed rearward of the strut of [[said]] each suspension.

4. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim [[2]] 1, the vehicle further comprising first chain links [[coupled]] operatively connected to the at least one [[left side drive]] left-side motor and the wheels of the left front and the left rear suspensions.

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5. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim 4, the vehicle further comprising second chain links ~~[[coupled]]~~ operatively connected to the at least one ~~[[right side drive]]~~ right-side motor and the wheels of the right front and the right rear suspensions.

6. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the control arms of the four suspensions extend laterally away from the vehicle, the two left side suspension control arms extending leftwardly and laterally away from the left side of the chassis, and the two right side control arms extending rightwardly and laterally away from the right side of the chassis.

7. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein ~~the left side of the chassis~~ includes a generally vertically and longitudinally extending left side wall, ~~[[and]] wherein the right side of the chassis includes~~ a generally vertically and horizontally extending right side wall~~[[,]]~~ and ~~[[further wherein]]~~ the left front and left rear ~~[[suspension]]~~ control arms are ~~[[mounted adjacent]]~~ coupled to the left sidewall and the right front and right rear ~~[[suspensions]]~~ control arms are ~~[[mounted adjacent]]~~ coupled to the right sidewall.

8. (Currently Amended) The skid steer vehicle of claim 1, further comprising an engine and a plurality of hydraulic pumps coupled to and driven by the engine, the

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plurality of pumps including a left side drive pump, a right side drive pump and a steering pump.

~~A skid steer vehicle having a longitudinally extending axis, a left side, a right side, a front end and a rear end, the vehicle comprising:~~

~~a chassis;~~

~~a power source supported on the chassis;~~

~~a plurality of hydraulic pumps coupled to and driven by the power source, the plurality of pumps including a variable displacement left side drive pump, a variable displacement right side drive pump and a steering pump;~~

~~at least one left side hydraulic drive motor and at least one right side hydraulic drive motor coupled to the left side and the right side hydraulic drive pumps, respectively;~~
~~and~~

~~at least four vehicle suspensions, said the suspensions being disposed at the left front, the right front, the left rear and the right rear of the vehicle, wherein each of said the at least four suspensions includes a laterally extending control arm attached to the chassis to pivot about a longitudinal axis, a spring, a strut coupled to the control arm, and a wheel drivingly coupled to one of the left side drive motor and the right side drive motor.~~

9-18. (Canceled).